

## INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL LOG

This log should only be used under the following circumstances:

- In gillnet fisheries, except the pelagic drift gillnet fishery, to record all pelagics, sturgeons, and tagged fish EXCEPT:

- bonito,
- skipjack tuna,
- false albacore and
- king mackerel.

These species should be recorded on the Gillnet Haul Log.

- In all other fisheries, record only pelagics, sturgeons, and tagged fish caught in a particular haul. It is important to ensure that a weight is recorded for **every** animal (except chunked fish carcasses and only heads of animals).
- In all fisheries, record incidental catches of **terrapins** on this log. These animals are not recorded on a Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle and Sea Bird Incidental Take Log.

**Any animal recorded on this log should NOT also be recorded in the Haul Log Species Summary section.**

“Pelagics” include, but are not limited to:

Swordfish	Billfish	Sharks	Atl. Needlefish
Tuna	Bonito	Torpedo Rays	
Cutlassfish	Wahoo		

See Appendix R. Species List and Corresponding Logs for a list of species and the log(s) on which to record them.

### INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A**, **B** and **C**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

**1. HAUL NUMBER:** Record the consecutive haul number assigned to the haul being sampled. This number must agree with the haul number recorded on the corresponding Haul Log.

**2. GEAR NUMBER:** Record the gear number assigned to this uniquely identified gear as specified on the corresponding Gear Characteristics Log.

**3. SEQUENCE NUMBER:** Consecutive numbers are assigned to each animal or debris item recorded on this log. If there are insufficient lines on one form, continue listing items on an additional Individual Animal Log, making sure to fill in the preceding number.

**4. SPECIES NAME:** Record the **complete** common name of each species/animal or debris item to record on this log, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names.

Examples: Swordfish.  
Yellowfin Tuna.

**5. SPECIES CODE:** Leave this field blank.

**6. INITIAL STATUS:** Indicate the status of each animal caught as it comes up, whether it is brought onboard or not, by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Alive.
- 2 = Dead.
- 3 = Dead, Damaged.
- 4 = Dead, Head Only.

**7. END STATUS:** Indicate the final status of each animal caught, whether it is brought onboard or not, by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Alive.
- 2 = Dead.
- 3 = Dead, Damaged.
- 4 = Dead, Head Only.

**8. FISH DISPOSITION:** Indicate the disposition of each animal or item listed in SPECIES NAME (#4) by the vessel by recording the most appropriate three digit code listed in Appendix B. Fish Disposition Codes.

Example: A 47 lb swordfish is discarded because regulations prohibit its retention because it's too small (012).

**9. PROCESSING TYPE:** Indicate the type of processing done to each animal by recording the appropriate two digit code:

- 00 = Unknown.
- 01 = No Processing.
- 02 = Chunked.
- 03 = Filleted.
- 04 = Dressed (Gutted Only).
- 05 = Dressed (Finned Only).
- 06 = Dressed (Headed and Gutted).
- 07 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, and Finned).
- 08 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, and Tailed).
- 09 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, Finned, and Tailed).
- 99 = Other, specify in COMMENTS.

**10. WEIGHT:** Record the dressed or round, actual or estimated weight for each species/animal or debris item listed in SPECIES NAME (#4). In general, the types of weights the observer should be able to obtain are as follows:

**Kept Pelagic Species:** the dealer's actual dressed individual animal weight for those species tagged and carcass weights obtained dockside, i.e. swordfish, billfish, tuna, bonito, sharks, etc.

**Discarded Pelagic Species:** the observer's estimated round individual animal weight for those species discarded, i.e. swordfish, billfish, tuna, bonito, sharks, etc.

**NOTE:** Actual weights may be recorded to the nearest **tenth** of a pound if reasonable. Estimated weights greater than one pound should be recorded to the nearest whole pound.

**NOTE:** When a **shark is finned**, with the carcass discarded or kept, record the **carcass** and its corresponding length and dressed weight information on this log. Record a "D" for "dressed" in WEIGHT TYPE CLASSIFICATION (#11) and record the appropriate pro-

cessing code for the shark carcass in PROCESSING TYPE (#9). Create a separate summary record, by species, on the corresponding Haul Log, for **kept fins**.

**NOTE:** When a **fish or shark is "upgraded"** or **"high graded"**, and a previously kept fish or shark is discarded and replaced with one that is larger (or of higher quality/value), record the discarded animal and a weight, and code it appropriately for FISH DISPOSITION (#8). Upgrading may result in dressed discard weights. Upgrading is typically done with swordfish and tuna, but may also occur with sharks and other fish.

**NOTE:** When a **fish or shark is filleted** on the vessel, record the round weight for the animal before filleting, as appropriate.

**NOTE:** Do not record any weight information for chunked fish or only heads of animals. Create a separate summary record, by species, on the corresponding Haul Log, for kept fish chunks.

**NOTE:** Do not record any weight information for terrapins.

## WEIGHT TYPE CLASSIFICATION

**11. DRESSED OR ROUND:** Indicate whether the weight recorded in WEIGHT (#10) is a dressed or round weight by recording the appropriate letter code:

- D = Dressed.
- R = Round.

**12. ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED:** Indicate whether the weight recorded in WEIGHT (#10) is an actual or estimated weight by recording the appropriate letter code:

- A = Actual.
- E = Estimated.

**13. TAG NUMBER(S):** Record the complete alphanumeric numbers, with no spaces or hyphens, from the tag(s) that you attach, or that were already attached, to the animal. This number may be from:

- a) a kept pelagic fish tagged by the observer with a carcass tag. This tag allows the observer to uniquely identify each kept fish carcass for the purpose of recording its actual, dressed weight at the dealer. Record the tag number as it appears on the carcass tag.
- b) a **tag recaptured fish or shark**. If the animal is kept by the vessel, record both the recaptured animal tag number, **and** the carcass tag number in this field, and the correct TAG CODES (#14). If the tag is preceded by a letter, be sure to include that when recording the tag number.
- NOTE:** For fish and shark tagging instructions, refer to the Tagging and Tag Recapture instructions in the NEFSC Observer Program Training Manual.
- Examples: M145697, R324061
- c) an **untagged fish or shark from which a biological sample is taken**. Record "SAM #" plus a consecutive number so the sample may be tracked to the animal record.

**14. TAG CODE(S):** Indicate the origin of the tag number(s) recorded above (#13), for each tag attached to the animal, by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Tag Applied by Observer.
- 2 = No Tag(s).
- 3 = Tag Already Present, Left On.
- 4 = Tag Already Present, Removed.
- 5 = Carcass Tagged.

**NOTE:** Use code 2 when no tag number was recorded; **do not leave this field blank**.  
Use codes 1 - 4 for swordfish, billfish, tuna, and sharks released alive.  
Use code 5 only for fish and sharks processed and weighed at the dealer.

## INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL MEASUREMENTS

The following three fields are for length measurements for all **animals** brought on board. If time allows, two measurements should be made on each animal according to its type, i.e. swordfish, billfish, tuna,

bonito, shark, terrapin, etc...

The length measurements are listed across the form in order of priority. If time and/or fishing conditions preclude obtaining multiple measurements from each animal, it is important to collect at least one measurement, preferably STANDARD LENGTH #1 (#15), and sex from as many animals as possible. Do not try to piece animals together that have been cut up, but do try to record an ESTIMATED LENGTH (#17) for these animals.

Do not record any length information for only heads of animals.

**All length measurements are recorded in whole centimeters.**

**15. STANDARD LENGTH #1:** Record the measured length of the animal according to these standards:

Swordfish and Other Billfish (i.e. white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, and spearfish): **Lower Jaw to Fork length (LJFL)** - tip of lower jaw to caudal fork of the tail (**curvilinear**).

Tunas and Bonito: **Fork Length (FL)** - tip of upper jaw to caudal fork of the tail (**straight**).

Sharks: **Fork Length (FL)** - tip of snout to caudal fork of the tail (**straight**).

Rays: **Total length (TL)** - tip of upper snout to end of the tail (**straight**).

Other Fish (i.e. sturgeon): **Fork length (FL)** - tip of upper snout to fork of the tail (**straight**).

Terrapins: **Total length (TL)** - nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **tip (curvilinear)**.

**NOTE:** If unable to obtain required length, dash field and comment reason in the corresponding comments section.

**16. STANDARD LENGTH #2:** Record the measured length of the animal according to the standards listed below:

Swordfish: **Cleithrum to Keel length (CK)** -

cleithral arch to the anterior rise of the caudal keel (**curvilinear**), i.e. where the external dark body pigment meets the white inner cleithrum membrane, to the origin of the caudal keel (carcass length).

Billfish: **Pectoral to Fork length (PFL)** - anterior insertion of the pectoral fin to the caudal fork of the tail (**curvilinear**).

Tunas and Bonito: **Pectoral to Fork length (PFL)** - anterior insertion of the pectoral fin to the caudal fork of the tail (**straight**).

Sharks: **Total length (TL)** - tip of snout to the tip of the upper caudal lobe (**straight**).

Rays: **Disc Width (DW)** - tip of pectoral fin to tip of pectoral fin, across the widest point of the animal (**straight**).

Other Fish (i.e. sturgeon): **None**.

Terrapins: **Notch length (NL)** - nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **notch (curvilinear)**.

**NOTE:** If unable to obtain required length, dash field and comment reason in the corresponding comments section.

**17. ESTIMATED LENGTH:** Record the estimated **straight** length of the animal according to the standards listed under STANDARD LENGTH #1 (#15) if the animal is not brought onboard or whole.

**NOTE:** If unable to obtain required length, dash field and comment reason in the corresponding comments section.

**18. SEX:** Indicate the sex of each animal, whether it is brought onboard or not (if possible) by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = Unknown.
- 1 = Male.
- 2 = Female.

**NOTE:** Leave this field blank when only the head of an animal is caught.

**19. BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE TAKEN?:** Indicate

whether or not a biological sample was collected by recording the appropriate one digit code:

- 0 = No.
- 1 = Yes.

**NOTE:** Record the sample type in the COMMENT section of this log.

## COMMENTS

Record any additional information regarding the animal(s) sampled, *i.e.* processing types, biosamples taken, etc..., especially when data are unable to be collected. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to indicate "See Back" on the front. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.